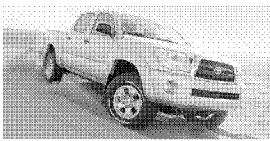


### III. Quality/Compliance Issues

**NHTSA Investigation on Lexus ES350 All Weather Floor Mats** – NHTSA has upgraded the investigation to an Engineering Analysis (EA). According to the upgrade resume, NHTSA has received 17 complaints alleging 5 crashes had occurred and resulted in 10 injuries. Combined with Toyota data, there are a total of 40 complaints and 8 crashes. The resume now lists the problem description as “The accessory floor mat may interfere with the throttle pedal.” The accessory floor mat includes two hooks which secure the floor mat and prevent it from interfering with the throttle pedal. In all complaints, the floor mats were unsecured; either due to being stacked on top of another secured mat or placed alone, without the use of the hooks. Toyota has already conducted an owner notification advising that the floor mats be properly secured.



**NHTSA Investigation on Sienna Liftgate Support Struts** – NHTSA issued three peer vehicle IR letters and is awaiting responses. TMA expects copies of the peer responses from NHTSA based on discussions last month.



**Defect Information Report – Tacoma Slip Yoke** – On July 24 TMA filed a Defect Information Report (DIR) with NHTSA regarding a safety recall of the 2007 Toyota Tacoma. Due to a manufacturing issue, the slip yoke of the rear propeller shaft can fracture and fail. If the slip yoke fails, the prop shaft can drop and contact the ground, and could result in a loss of control. There are 108 vehicles included in the campaign.

### IV. Assessment



**Frontal and Side NCAP Tests – 2008 MY Lexus RX350** – TMA was informed that the 2008 MY Lexus RX350 will be tested in the front and side NCAP at Karco on September 5 and 6. TMA also received a list of the 2008 and early 2009 MY vehicles selected for testing.

**2008 and early 2009 MY Vehicles Selected for NCAP Testing** – TMA received a list of vehicle selected for NCAP testing for the upcoming year. NHTSA will test the RX350, Highlander, Scion tC, 4Runner, IS, xD, Solara, Yaris Liftback, Sequoia for the 2008 MY and the Corolla and Matrix for the early 2009 MY.

### OTHER?:

**NHTSA Stars on Cars Final Rule Amendments** – On August 13, NHTSA published in the Federal Register an amendment to 49 CFR 575.301 (Stars on Cars). In the amended final rule, NHTSA responds to petitions from the Recreational Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) and the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) et al. NHTSA also issues some technical adjustments to the regulatory language. The petitions involved RV's and altered vehicles, while the technical amendments adjusted the regulatory language to reflect the previously published figures depicting the sample labeling. While minor, some portions of the sample labels were inconsistent with the regulatory text.

**NHTSA Stars on Cars Safety Labeling Information** - On August 1, TMA received a response from NHTSA regarding our review of the Vehicle Safety Ratings they had issued. NHTSA accepted our previous requests, except for the rating of ES350 vehicles equipped without rear seat side airbags. TMA had requested that a 5 star rating be applied to the driver/front seat passenger,

based on the NCAP test results of an ES350 equipped with rear seat side airbags. For the rear seat passenger, "Not Rated" would be used. NHTSA refused because they are concerned that if they allow this, manufacturers will abuse it in carryover submissions. For example, a manufacturer might tell NHTSA that the front seat carries over, but not the rear, and expect the ratings accordingly. Therefore, as indicated, the ES350 without rear seat side airbags will be "Not Rated" for the front and rear seats.